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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS, INC.,
a New York Corporation;**

Plaintiff,

V.

METAMEDIA CAPITAL, INC., a Delaware Corporation; and DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

Case No.

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiff Creative Photographers, Inc. (“CPI”) hereby prays to this honorable Court for relief based on the following:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This action arises under the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101, *et seq.*

2. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a)-(b).

3. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and 1400(a) because this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred.

PARTIES

4. CPI is a New York corporation with its primary place of business located in New York, NY. CPI is a premier photographic syndication company that provides photos of models and celebrities created by internationally renowned photographers to communication and media businesses. CPI is the exclusive licensing agent and syndicator for the photographs at issue in this case and the copyrights therein, and thus has standing to maintain this action under 17 U.S.C. § 501(b).

5. Upon information and belief, Defendant MetaMedia Capital, Inc. (“MetaMedia”) is a California limited liability company with a principal place of business located at 4712 Admiralty Way, Unit 1161, Marina del Rey, CA 90292. MetaMedia owns, operates, and controls the commercial website lavishlife.net and its related/affiliated subdomains, mobile websites, social media pages, and applications (altogether, “Defendants’ Website”).

6. Upon information and belief, Defendants Does 1-10 are other parties not yet identified who have infringed Plaintiff's copyrights. The true names, whether corporate, individual, or otherwise, of Defendants Does 1-10 are presently unknown to Plaintiff, which therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names and will seek leave to amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

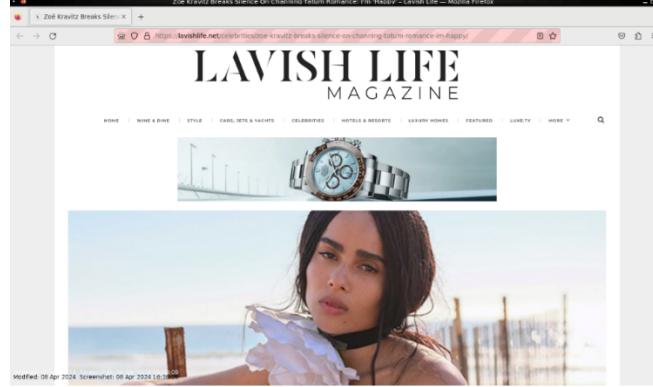
7. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, each of the Defendants was the agent, affiliate, officer, director, manager, principal, alter-ego, and/or employee of the remaining Defendants and was at all times acting within the scope of such agency, affiliation, alter-ego relationship, and/or employment; and actively participated in, subsequently ratified, and/or adopted each of the acts or conduct

1 alleged, with full knowledge of each violation of Plaintiff's rights and the damages to
 2 Plaintiff proximately caused thereby.

3 **DEFENDANT'S UNAUTHORIZED EXPLOITATION OF**
 4 **THE SUBJECT PHOTOGRAPH**

5 8. Zoey Grossman took and owns an original photograph registered with the
 6 U.S. Copyright Office titled "ELLE_ZK_SHOT_01_110_v4" ("Subject
 7 Photograph"). CPI is the exclusive licensing agent and syndicator for Grossman and
 8 the Subject Photograph.

9 9. Following the publication and display of the Subject Photograph,
 10 Defendants, and each of them, used the Subject Photograph for commercial purposes
 11 on Defendants' Website without CPI's authorization.

| Subject Photograph | Unauthorized Copy |
|---|---|
|  |  https://lavishlife.net/celebrities/zoe-kravitz-breaks-silence-on-channing-tatum-romance-im-happy/ |

1 10. To the extent Defendants exploited the Subject Photograph more than
2 three years before the filing of this case, CPI did not know, and had no reason to
3 know, of such exploitations.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

5 11. Plaintiff incorporates by reference as though fully set forth the allegations
6 contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

7 12. Upon information and belief, Defendants, and each of them, had access
8 to the Subject Photograph, including through Plaintiff's website and social media
9 accounts, viewing the Subject Photograph on third-party websites or Internet search
10 engines, and/or because the copies displayed on Defendants' Website are verbatim
11 copies of, and thus strikingly similar to, the Subject Photograph.

12 13. Defendants, and each of them, copied, displayed, distributed, reproduced,
13 and otherwise exploited the Subject Photograph for commercial purposes on
14 Defendants' Website without Plaintiff's authorization.

14. Due to Defendants' acts of copyright infringement, Plaintiff has suffered
15 damages in an amount to be established at trial.
16

17 15. Due to Defendants' acts of copyright infringement, Defendants, and each
18 of them, have obtained profits they would not have realized but for their infringement.
19 As such, Plaintiff is entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits attributable to the
20 infringement in an amount to be established at trial.

21 16. Upon information and belief, Defendants, and each of them, have
22 committed copyright infringement with actual or constructive knowledge of, or with
23 reckless disregard or willful blindness for, Plaintiff's rights in the Subject Photograph,
24 such that said acts of copyright infringement were willful.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- 1 a. That Defendants, each of them, their respective agents, and/or anyone
2 else working on behalf of or in concert with Defendants or their
3 respective agents, be enjoined from further exploiting the Subject
4 Photograph for commercial purposes in any manner without Plaintiff's
5 authorization absent some independent legal right;
- 6 b. That Plaintiff be awarded all Defendants' profits, and all Plaintiff's
7 losses, attributable to Defendants' infringement, the exact sum to be
8 proven at the time of trial; or alternatively, if elected, statutory damages
9 as available under 17 U.S.C. § 504;
- 10 c. That Plaintiff be awarded its fees as available under 17 U.S.C. § 505;
- 11 d. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 12 e. That Plaintiff be awarded the costs of this action; and
- 13 f. That Plaintiff be awarded such further legal and equitable relief as the
14 Court deems proper.

15 Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues so triable pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
16 38 and the 7th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

17
18 Dated: October 16, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

DONIGER/BURROUGHS

20 By: /s/ Stephen M. Doniger
21 Stephen M. Doniger, Esq.
22 Benjamin F. Tookey, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff